

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

UNCLAS STATE 041195

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, GE

SUBJECT: TRIP BY SOMERSET RESIDENTS

FOR AMBASSADOR COOPER

DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM SENATORS FORD AND HUDDLESTON FOR A GROUP OF SOMERSET, KENTUCKY RESIDENTS WHO PLAN TO VISIT EAST BERLIN AND/OR THE GDR THIS SPRING. OUR FIRST INDICATION THAT SUCH A TRIP WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION CAME IN A DECEMBER TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH BOB MILLER (SEE BECKER LETTER TO YOU OF JANUARY 10, 1975.) THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS NOW CONSIDERING SPONSORING THIS TRIP AND HAS ASKED DEPARTMENT, THROUGH SENATORS FORD AND HUDDLESTON, FOR APPROVAL OF THE VENTURE. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT NORMALLY APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE (EXCEPT WHEN OBVIOUS CONDITIONS OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY MAKE TRAVEL UNWISE) OF ORGANIZED TOURIST TRIPS ABROAD BY AMERICAN CITIZENS. WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO SEND LETTER TO CHAMBER SIMPLY STATING THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO SUCH A TRIP AND THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS TRAVELLING IN GDR AND EAST BERLIN RECEIVE NORMAL CONSULAR PROTECTION

ACCORDED BY OUR CONSULAR OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. WE WOULD APPRECIATE AN INDICATION FROM YOU, HOWEVER, OF UNCLASSIFIED

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WHAT PLANS IF ANY HAVE BEEN MADE WITH YOU BY THE GROUP

FOR THE TRIP AND WHETHER YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL WISHES
CONCERNING THE ASSISTANCE THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD ATTEMPT
TO PROVIDE. KISSINGER

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